

2011 DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Oral Testimony

I am here on behalf of Raymond Bell, acting president of Sidney Water Users Irrigation District who could not be here today.

- Supporting project #24
- Increasing irrigation efficiency: District 1 & 2, Phase 3

Brief History

- Sidney Water Users was put into operation in 1938
- Became an irrigation district in 1995 consisting of 5 sub-districts
- The district covers approximately 4,753 acres
- Located in Richland County
- On the East side of Yellowstone River near Sidney
- 30 land owners make up the district
- Assessments are currently \$35.00 acre
- Total annual assessments \$167,000

Project Budget

- Total Project cost \$215,250
- The grant requested is in the amount of \$100,000
- NRCS In-Kind funding for survey and design \$15,000
- The district will be contributing in-kind contribution of \$100,250.00
- The district is currently applying for a grant with the Bureau of Reclamation for matching funds.

Scope of Project

- This phase 3 project is a continuation of our already completed phase 1 & 2 pipeline of approximately 2.5 miles.
- Will be installing additional 1.4 miles with 24" PVC pipe and appropriate turnouts.
- The existing open lateral system will be closed and developed into wildlife refuge.

Project & Goals

1. Increase overall system efficiency
 - a. Eliminate seepage loss of approximately 1050 acre feet of water per year
 - b. Equip all turnouts with flow meters to better manage applied water to fields
 - c. Conserve approximately 190,000 KWH of energy as a result of pumping less water.
2. Reduce erosion and sediments throughout the project.
3. Reduce noxious weeds infestations on the open lateral banks.
4. Develop 16.5 acres of wildlife nesting and resting habitat from the open lateral system.

Closing

- The preliminary design and engineering has been completed.
- SWUID management will administer grant contract and will coordinate and act as contractor over the project.
- NRCS will provide the final design and give technical assistance and also oversee project
- If this grant is approved construction would begin this fall and completed in the spring of 2012.
- Greatly appreciate your support in approving our DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Application.